



Diocese of North America and Europe

The Mar Thoma *Besorah*

The *Besorah* is an Official Publication of the Diocese of North America and Europe.

Message from the Diocesan Episcopa

Dearly beloved in Christ,

“I am the only one left...” I Kings 19: 14 (b)

We live in a world where many people are stressed and tensed. Though human beings are created to be born into a family, live in a community, and grow towards the culmination of the Kingdom experience, many in the modern era prefer to be independent, live alone, and die unattended. Where there is no vision, people perish. Where there is no hope, people commit suicide. Is this the purpose of life?

The prophet Elijah pours his heart to God in a desperate and depressed state when he confronted King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. He says that his life is threatened, Israel became disobedient to God, and he is left alone (v. 14). So the prophet’s desire is to put an end to his life and withdraw from the land (v. 4). God intervenes and corrects him by saying that the prophet is wrong and that God has greater plans for his life (vv. 15-18).

Are we stressed? Does our future look bleak? St. Paul writing to the people in Corinth says, “but in Him it has always been YES” (II Cor. 1: 19). What can one man do? This is a question often asked by people. The Bible says that one person can make a difference as seen in the lives of Noah, Daniel, Ruth, Esther, Jeremiah, and the Virgin Mary. Malala Yousafzai, a fifteen year old girl who was shot in the head at point blank range by the Taliban in Pakistan, journeyed up to United Nations in New York speaking for the rights of young girls to seek education. She stands as a model who believes in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world. What about us, who are members of a church journeying with Christ? Let our lives reveal to the world the incredible power of faith in action.

At this time, I also seek your fervent prayers and support for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan that has devastated the lives of hundreds of thousands in the Philippines. It is going to take a lot of effort to rebuild the lives of those who survived this storm.

Mar Theodosius+, Diocesan Episcopa

Jubilee Chapel Consecration at Matamoros, Mexico

Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa consecrated the first Mar Thoma Church in South America - **Iglesia Mar Thoma Matamoros** (Mar Thoma Church, Matamoros, Mexico) on October 12, 2013. In commemoration with the Silver Jubilee celebration of the Diocese, the new church was dedicated as the “**Jubilee Chapel**”. The consecration service included the Spanish language. Prominent officials representing the City of Matamoros and the mayor attended the consecration service and the public meeting, and they appreciated the Mar Thoma Church’s efforts in rehabilitating the community. About 400 people graced the event.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **November 18 – 24: Visit of the Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma, Metropolitan**
- **November 23: Diocesan Silver Jubilee Finale and Inauguration of the 25th Anniversary of Episcopal Consecration of Diocesan Episcopa Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius**

STUDENT HONORED

Ms. Betzy Murillo, Mexico Mission Education program medical student presented a student research paper on the use and abuse of antibiotics at the XXXVIII National Infectology Congress held in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico from May 28-31, 2013.



Southern Region – Family Conference, Diocesan Silver Jubilee Celebration and Episcopal Silver Jubilee Celebration

The South Florida Mar Thoma Church hosted the Southern Regional Family Conference from November 1 - 3, 2013, at the Christian Retreat Center, Tampa. About 87 families attended, and the theme was “Family: Journeying with Christ.” During the conference, praise and thanks were given to God for Diocesan Silver Jubilee and the 25th Anniversary of Episcopal Consecration of the Rt. Rev. Geevarghese Mar Athanasius, Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius and Rt. Rev. Dr. Euyakim Mar Coorilos.



Our Delegates at the World Council of Churches



The Mar Thoma Metropolitan and delegates attended the 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) at Busan, Republic of Korea, from October 30 to November 8, 2013. Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos was elected to the Central Committee of the WCC for a second term. The theme for Assembly was, “God of life, lead us to justice and peace.”

Northeast Region – Jubilee Night



The Northeast Region youths celebrated the Diocesan Jubilee through a talent evening ‘Jubilee Night’, held on July 29, 2013 at 6:00 pm at the Jean Nuzy school auditorium. The Youth members glorified God through their talents, and participated in instrumental music concert, dance fusion, praise and worship and drama.



Rt. Rev Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius was the chief guest for the occasion. About 600 people attended the program and the youth fellowship collected around \$ 22, 000 towards payment of the youth chaplain’s residence.

SOUTHEAST REGION- A DIALOGUE ON “THE JOURNEY & GROWTH OF THE DIOCESE”



A Dialogue on the Journey and Growth of the Diocese took place on Saturday, October 12, 2013 at St. Peter’s Mar Thoma Church, New Jersey. Papers were presented on the “Challenges faced by the Diaspora Community during the Formative Period of the Diocese,” “Challenges and Vision of the New Generation in the Spiritual Journey of the Diocese,” and “Role of the Local Parish in the Formation of a Witnessing and Serving Community.” A panel discussion followed and about 40 people attended.

Midwest Region - Seminar on Identity, Vision, and Mission of the Mar Thoma Church

The Midwest Region marked the Diocesan Silver Jubilee with seminars, dialogue and training programs. A seminar hosted by the Chicago Mar Thoma Yuvajena Sakhya on the 'Identity, Vision and Mission of the Mar Thoma Church' was held at the Chicago Mar Thoma Church on Saturday, October 19th, 2013.



MAR THEODOSIUS VISITS PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



The Board of Trustees of the Princeton Theological Seminary invited Mar Theodosius Episcopa as representative of the Mar Thoma Church at the Inauguration and Installation of the Rev. Dr. M. Craig Barnes as president and professor of Pastoral Ministry of Princeton Theological Seminary. Mar Theodosius attended the two day sessions that began on October 22, 2013.



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The Besorah is a brief overview of some of the Diocesan news and activities. For more information, please refer to the Diocesan website and/or the Messenger.